

Marine Science Day Success!

Marine Science Day took a virtual turn in 2021. This year's event required a lot of preparation prior to the event to make this happen. The planning team made every effort to incorporate the same elements from past years in a virtual way. This included the main stage presentations, an exhibit hall featuring a variety of researchers, pre-recorded tours onsite, a community art gallery, and a kids zone. The main presentations and the kids zone provided live presentations the day of with the opportunity for participant interaction during the Q & A portion. One of the benefits of the virtual setting was reaching a broader audience, even as far as the UK! So while Marine Science Day looked very different this year, it was a huge success!

Here is Lindsay rocking the kids zone set up in our Marine Education Lab. Thank you to those volunteers that helped with editing content prior to the event! The [Marine Science Day website](#) will stay up for the rest of the year so visitors can continue to explore the vast content.



Estuary Time

Although the Visitor Center has been closed, the estuary trail remains open. The estuary trail is enjoyed by bird watchers, walkers, and explorers of all ages. In past years, we would be gearing up for guided estuary walks. Our hope is to start these again once we can welcome visitors back onsite.



In the meantime, we have been working on creating other ways for the public to learn about what an estuary is and why they are important. This includes a section on our website featuring our [Yaquina Bay Estuary](#) resource manual under the section 'Exploring Our Coast'.

We also recently filmed some interpretive videos along the trail. Thanks to Barbara Hahn for sharing her knowledge and estuary guide experience for these videos.

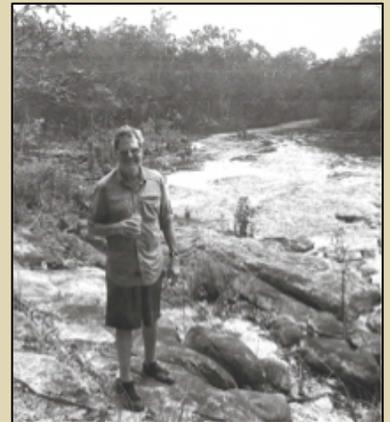
Volunteer Highlight

Jay Fineman

Jay grew up in Los Angeles and finished a Bachelor's degree at UCLA. He left the LA area, got married and started his graduate work in Toronto.

Followed with teaching in Sweden and completing his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Jay and his wife moved to Newport in 1979 and had their older son. They ran Grove Veterinary Clinic for 30 years. Now being retired, they spend 6 weeks of the year in Sweden with the majority of their time still in Newport. Jay also enjoys being on the board of the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and he will look forward to volunteering at Hatfield once the Visitor Center is open again.

A major life highlight for Jay was the opportunity to join Dr. Tim Miller Morgan on the Project Piaba trip on the Rio Negro in Brazil. After being a veterinarian for land animals for most of his life, the change of learning about the animals underwater was a revelation and a lot of fun! Having been a surfer and diver, the ocean has been an ongoing part of Jay's life. HMSC has provided an opportunity for him to share his passion on a greater scope. Thanks to Jay for 8 years of volunteer service!



What's Next?

We are working very diligently to open the Visitor Center back up once we have the confirmation from the university. What does that look like? Steps moving forward will create a safe space for our staff, volunteers, and continued learners. We will have a reservation system in place to moderate the amount of visitors in the center at any given time. A small fee will be required to reserve a space to explore the VC. We do not know how long a fee will be in place.

There will be a one way route for visitors to navigate around the center with stickers and signs displayed to guide the way. Not all hands on exhibits will be available initially for safety precautions. Masks and social distancing will be required at all times for visitors, staff and volunteers. Sanitation stations will be available around the center. This is a new way of doing things, and we are looking forward to working with you all and connecting with our visitors in a safe space.

Now that you know more of the re-opening procedures, what are your thoughts on joining us as a volunteer in the VC? We welcome you to fill out this anonymous survey (click on the link below) to help us plan to re-open. Thank you for all that you do! We miss seeing you!

[VC Re-open Volunteering](#)